

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

35 USC 102(e)/103

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 21 and 27-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated over Phillips (US 4,230,771). Claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-17 and 21-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated over Phillips (US 4,230,771) in view of the Discussion of the Related Art (page 1, line 14-page 3, line 12 of the subject application).

Phillips is cited as disclosing a glass laminate comprising two glass layers bonded to PVB. The PVB is stated to have a hydroxyl content of 15-30 % and 20-55 wt parts of 4G7. The Action points to the disclosure of PVB having a hydroxyl content of 20 % having 49 parts by weight of 4G7 at column 2, lines 55-62. Applicants also note that the Table at column 4 describes Example 1 as being made with 23.0 % residual hydroxyl and 35.2 phr 4G7 plasticizer.

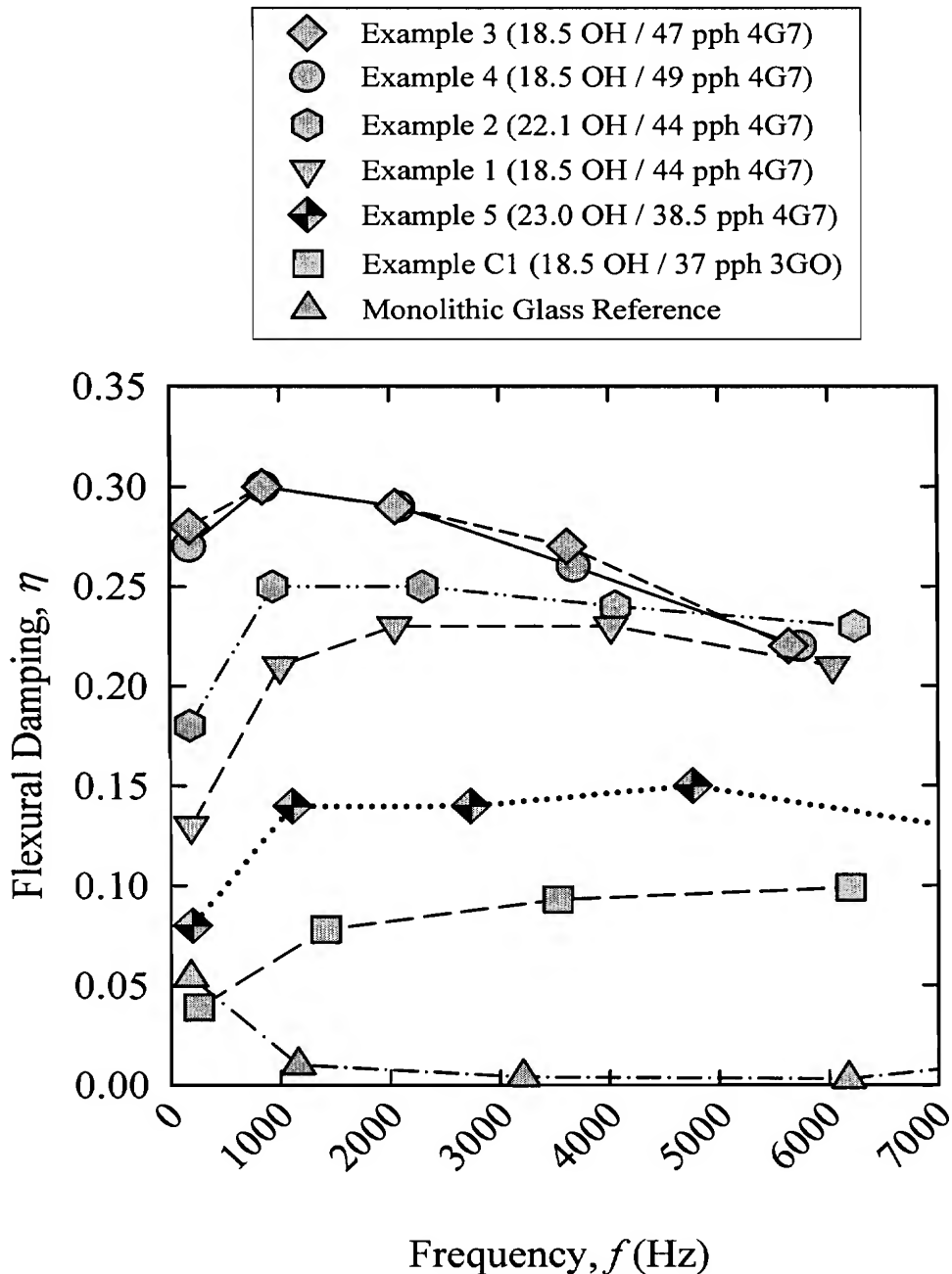
The Discussion of the Related Art is cited as teaching the claimed uses of the glass laminates.

The claims are focused on PVB interlayers having sound-damping properties, glass laminates containing the interlayers and article containing the glass laminates. The independent claims focus on the PVB having a hydroxyl number in the range of from about 17 to about 19.5. They state that the interlayer is made with a single plasticizer in an amount in the range of from about 40 to about 50 parts per hundred (pph), wherein the plasticizer is 4G7.

Applicants submit that the invention is a selection invention directed to PVB interlayers having sound-damping properties and that Phillips does not teach or suggest PVB interlayers, glass laminates or articles as claimed. Concerning this point, Phillips does not teach or suggest use of PVB having a hydroxyl number in the range of from about 17 to about 19.5 in conjunction with 4G7 in an amount in the range of from about 40 to about 50 parts per hundred (pph). Phillips discloses a glass laminate comprising two glass layers bonded to PVB. At column 2, lines 55-62, the PVB is stated to have a hydroxyl content of 15-30 % and 20-55 wt parts of 4G7. In addition, the Table at column 4 describes Example 1 as being made with 23.0 % residual hydroxyl and 35.2 phr 4G7 plasticizer. Neither of those disclosures describes the claimed invention.

Applicants also point out that the claimed invention provides unexpected results over the products described in Phillips. Submitted herewith is a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 that adds data to the comparison already presented in the specification. Example 5 is newly added and shows use of a PVB interlayer representative of Phillips Example 1. Specifically,

the Example 5 of the Declaration is directed to use of an interlayer comprising PVB having 23.0 % residual hydroxyl and 38.5 pph 4G7. The data is presented below.



The above data shows that the invention provides superior damping properties and, thus, improved acoustic performance in laminated glass windows. Dr. Bennison explains that it is his opinion that increasing the plasticizer content and reducing hydroxyl amount provides

a synergistic effect. Dr. Bennison states the data presented in the table shows that the invention provides significant advantages over the PVB interlayers, laminates and articles of the example presented in Phillips. Dr. Bennison concludes that it is my opinion that these advantages would not be expected based upon the teachings of Phillips.

Based upon the above, applicants submit that the invention is a selection invention directed to PVB interlayers having sound-damping properties and that Phillips does not teach or suggest PVB interlayers, glass laminates or articles as claimed. Further, applicants submit that the claimed invention provides unexpected results over the products described in Phillips. Hence, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended to recite that upper part of the hydroxyl number range is 19.5 based upon original claim 3 and the top of page 5 of the specification. In addition, applicants are presenting the range of about 18 to about 19.5 and about 18 to about 19 supported at the top of page 5.

Applicants have amended some of the claims to cover the ranges of about 41 to about 49 pph, and about 42 pph to about 49 pph, plasticizer as supported at page 4, lines 17-26.

Entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Should any matter remain unresolved by this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed direct dial telephone number in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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